

## **Regional Conference Report**

**Region 4 – Northwest NB**

**Edmundston Community College**

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**Community Non-Profit Organizations Secretariat  
November 22, 2008**

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As the newly appointed minister of state for seniors and minister responsible for the secretariat, I enjoyed taking part in my first regional conference as minister. I am very happy to be serving as minister for community non-profit organizations throughout our province and I was thrilled to have the opportunity to meet non-profits working in the northwest, and to share in their insights and their experiences and ideas. We were happy to share our Strategic Plan for the first time at this conference. I enjoyed the feedback that the group provided and am excited to share it with everyone through our website. I pledge to be a strong advocate for non-profits around the cabinet table and throughout government to allow them to be an even stronger participant in making our communities better and our province self-sufficient.

Brian Kenny

Minister responsible for the

Community Non-Profit Organizations Secretariat

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### **Document Outline:**

Turning Point Conclusions

Strategic Plan

- Questions
  - Fostering a Culture of Volunteering
  - Revitalizing the Partnership
- Discussion notes

Questions

- Funding and Administrative Burden
- Respect and Recognition

Individual, Regional, Provincial Approach

Priorities

List of Attendees

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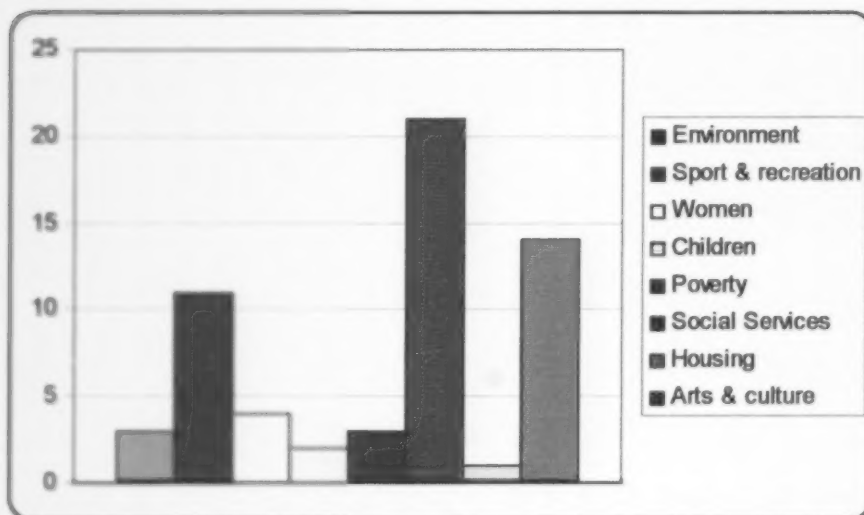
## Turning Point Conclusions

(Using electronic voting devices the audience answered the following questions during the conference. These results were shared with the audience after each question)

### 1.) What sector do you work with?

### Responses

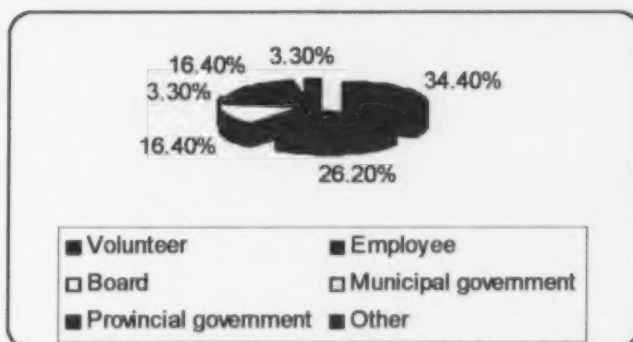
Environment	3	5.08%
Sport & recreation	11	18.64%
Women	4	6.78%
Children	2	3.39%
Poverty	3	5.08%
Home care	0	0%
Social services	21	35.59%
Housing	1	1.69%
Literacy	0	0%
Arts & culture	14	23.73%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>100%</b>



## 2.) Who am I?

## Responses

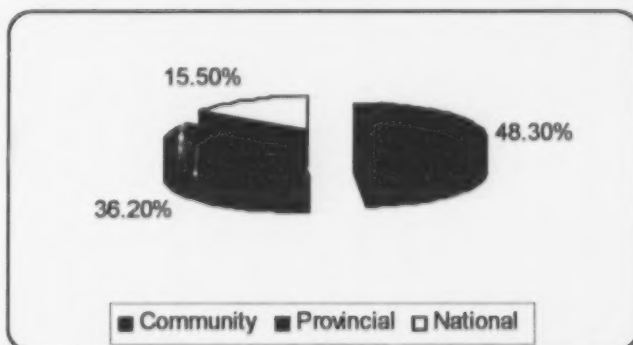
Volunteer	21	34.43%
Employee	16	26.23%
Board	10	16.39%
Municipal government	2	3.28%
Provincial government	10	16.39%
Other	2	3.28%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>100%</b>



## 3.) Make up of organization

## Responses

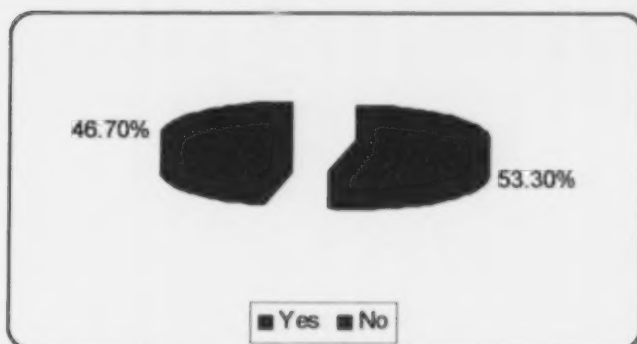
Community	28	48.28%
Provincial	21	36.21%
National	9	15.52%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>100%</b>



**4.) Have you visited our website?**

**Responses**

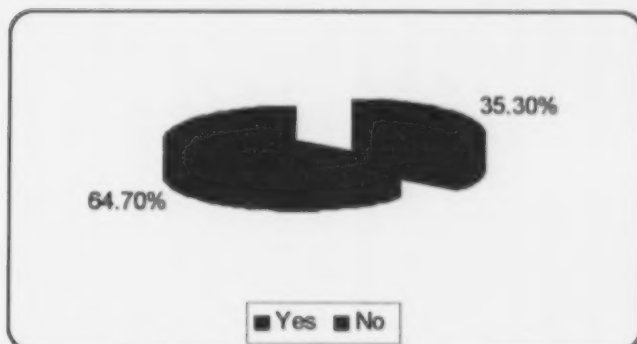
Yes	32	53.33%
No	28	46.67%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100%</b>



**5.) Have you registered in our database?**

**Responses**

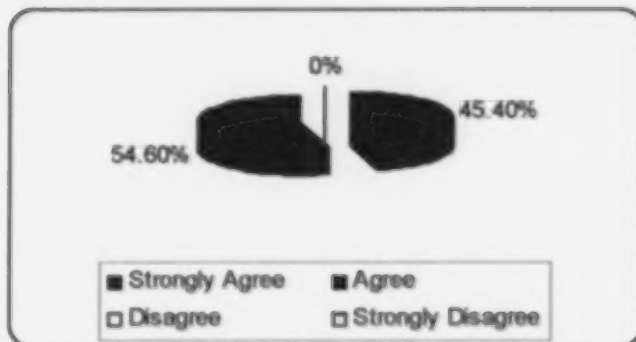
Yes	18	35.29%
No	33	64.71%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>100%</b>



**6.) I felt the website was useful**

**Responses**

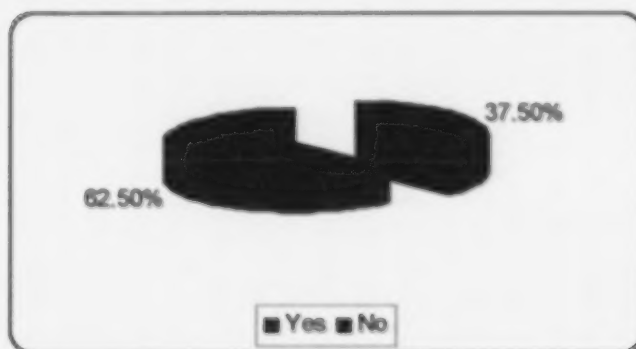
Strongly Agree	10	45.45%
Agree	12	54.55%
Disagree	0	0%
Strongly Disagree	0	0%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>100%</b>



**7.) Did you take part in the Task Force consultations in 2007?**

**Responses**

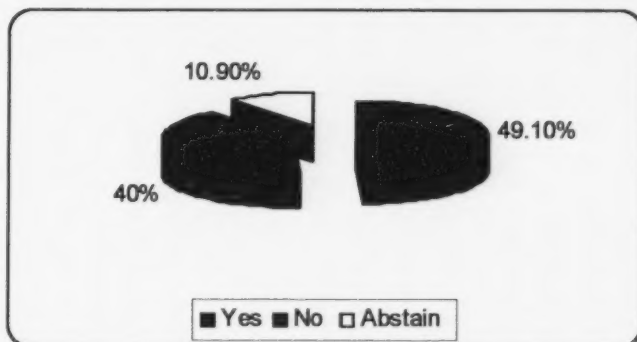
Yes	21	37.50%
No	35	62.50%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>100%</b>



**8.) My organization receives provincial funding**

**Responses**

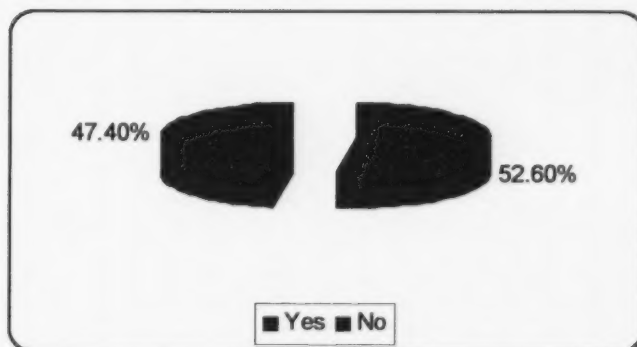
Yes	27	49.09%
No	22	40%
Abstain	6	10.91%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>100%</b>



**9.) Have you read the Delivering on the Blueprint?**

**Responses**

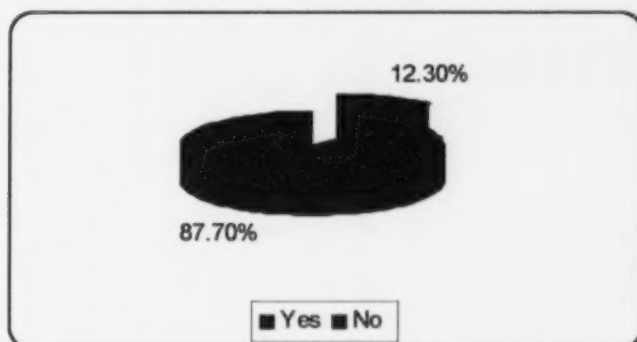
Yes	30	52.63%
No	27	47.37%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>100%</b>



**10.) Has your organization analyzed  
Delivering on the Blueprint?**

**Responses**

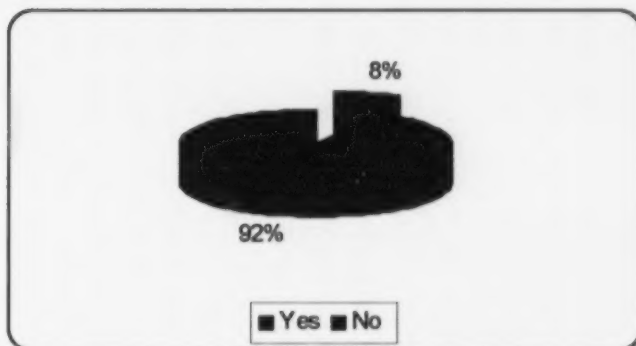
Yes	7	12.28%
No	50	87.72%
Totals	57	100%



**11.) Has your organization identified next  
steps for ensuring the implementation of  
Delivering on the Blueprint?**

**Responses**

Yes	4	8%
No	46	92%
Totals	50	100%

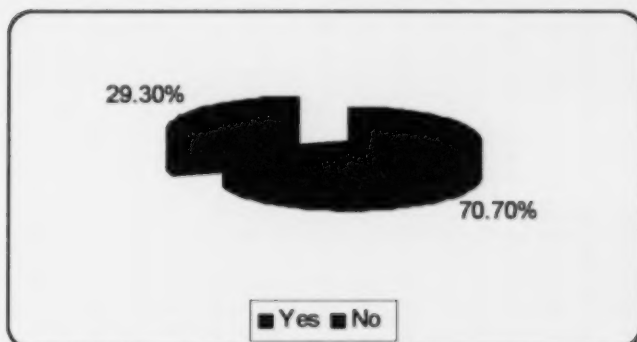




**12.) Does your organization currently partner with other non-profits?**

**Responses**

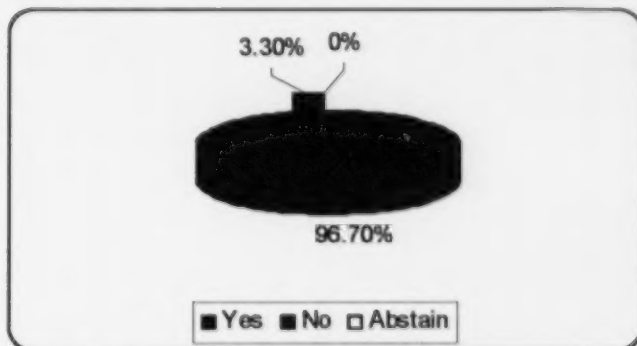
Yes	41	70.69%
No	17	29.31%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>100%</b>



**13.) Do you think more sharing amongst organizations would help your organization?**

**Responses**

Yes	58	96.67%
No	2	3.33%
Abstain	0	0%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100%</b>



## Strategic Plan

(Group discussion took place during the conference to provide an opportunity for the participants to provide feedback on the draft strategic plan. The following questions and suggestions were discussed)

### Questions

#### **Fostering a Culture of Volunteering**

- Q. *The sector needs qualified volunteers, technological resources, and funding for technology courses. The sector also needs people and resources for training.*
- A. Access to professional development was highlighted in the Blueprint. Several organizations throughout New Brunswick offer different training programs. In our November newsletter we will be sending out a request for information to organizations that offer training to volunteers. We are going to evaluate the information collected and will consider how we could provide these training opportunities on our website.
- Q. *There is a need to increase awareness and the value of volunteering in the province especially with an emphasis on youth. How can the Secretariat help?*
- A. The need to create more awareness of volunteerism was strongly recommended. The Secretariat is meeting with Communications NB to investigate the possibility of a campaign. The Population Growth Secretariat has developed a Youth Engagement Fund to help support retaining Youth within our Province by engaging them to become active participants in their community. More information on this program is available on their website.
- Q. *It is very difficult to locate all of the funding programs that are available. The Secretariat has been identified as a point of contact for the sector. Can a directory of funding sources be created? The sector is not completely aware of everything that is available to them. Deadlines are unclear. All of this information in one place would greatly assist the sector.*
- A. Our website has a link that lists an inventory of the government programs and services available to the non-profit sector. We are working with a contact in the government's information technology branch to make sure that all the programs within different departments are available on this link. Once the list is complete we are going to explore the possibility of creating a document that will highlight program overviews, contact people, deadlines, etc.

## **Revitalizing the Partnership**

*Q. How is Government going to prioritize Delivering on the Blueprint and what steps are going to take place? How and when will the Non-Profit Sector be notified about the work that has been done on specific recommendations?*

A. The Secretariat will be hosting annual regional conferences in each of the seven regions of the province. It will be reporting on the progress at each conference. The Secretariat will also be providing an annual report to update people on the progress of each recommendation and reporting on the overall progress. The regional conferences are a tool for the Non-Profit Sector to inform the Secretariat of the Non-Profit Sector's priorities. Our strategic plan, will soon be available on our website, it will outline the priorities and provide an update on the progress.

## **Discussion points brought forward by the group**

- There is a lack of collaboration between organizations and the competition for funding is a major problem. This lack of infrastructure may be solved with a volunteer centre that could assist in coordinating a regional partnership. They may also be able to assist in setting up a volunteer bank.
- The Centre Bénévolat de la Péninsule Acadienne interacts with many non-profit organizations in their area. This should be encouraged in all municipalities, or at least all counties. They can assist groups and provide information on how to set up a non-profit; how to manage; and how to set up meetings. They are an organization that provides training for their board members about insurance and funding. This is an excellent example of a network that exchanges information and where the weakness of one is the strength of another.
- Idea of having trust funds for the sector is a good idea. We spend a lot of time seeking funding, creating original fundraising ideas. The citizens are over solicited and the volunteers are over worked. Today's economy doesn't encourage people to give. Trust funds would help. The problem is increasing as the population is more and more in need.
- The use of government infrastructure would greatly benefit the sector. Training space is difficult to find. There is a great need for spaces that are accessible (wheelchair).
- Amendments need to be made to protect volunteers. People are afraid to volunteer. We need to create an incentive to volunteer and tax rebates is a good idea.

- Fixed budgets aren't always the answer. If we had an adjustable budget, with a surplus to keep, and a deficit that could be reviewed, this increased flexibility would assist the organizations like foodbanks.
  - The community radio in Edmundston sells air time and publicity (non-tangibles). They will act as an agent for all – sell publicity to do so. They will give free air time.
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## Questions

(These questions were raised during discussion at the conference, on the evaluation sheets, and on comment sheets during round table discussions).

### Funding and Administrative Burden

- Q. *We are entering an economic recession. What can the Government of New Brunswick do to assist non-profit organizations during this time?*
- A. The province acknowledges the current economic situation. The Minister is there to represent the sector during discussions around the cabinet table and during budget time. The province is working hard to keep its commitments during this time of economic downturn. It will work hard to stay focussed on the priorities of New Brunswickers and it has committed that a poverty reduction plan will be developed with the participation of individuals, community non-profit organizations and the business sector.
- Q. *Given the mixture of rural and urban regions do you plan to offer funding that corresponds to the special needs of rural regions?*
- A. It is important for NPOs to indicate their special needs when applying for funding, so that the government can take those needs into account. As part of the government's vision for a self-sufficient New Brunswick, the Province of New Brunswick created the \$100-million Northern New Brunswick Infrastructure Initiative (NNBII) to ensure adequate infrastructure is made available for economic development in the Restigouche, Chaleur, Acadian Peninsula and Miramichi regions.
- Q. *Why are paid/composite Fire Departments in the province eligible for a tax reduction within their municipalities when fully volunteer departments in LSD's are not?*
- A. The property tax exemption for rural voluntary fire associations is outlined in the Assessment Act of New Brunswick:
- 4(1) All real property in New Brunswick is liable to assessment and taxation, subject to the following exemptions from taxation:
- (h) that portion of real property occupied by rural voluntary fire associations;"
- To view a copy of the Assessment Act, please [click here](#).

- Q. *In relation to the recommendation outlining the use of schools after hours and the use of school buses, is there a target date in place?*
- A. The Secretariat has met with the Department of Education to discuss the recommendations in the response that impacts their department directly. Education is reviewing the policies in place and will be sharing them with the Secretariat. We will then get together to further discuss how to move forward on these recommendations.

## **Respect and Recognition**

- Q. *Equality of linguistic rights is important to New Brunswick. 60% of our francophone municipalities are within New Brunswick's rural areas. What is the government of New Brunswick doing for the francophone voluntary sector?*
- A. Hedard Albert is the Minister responsible for La Francophonie in New Brunswick. The mandate of his department is to coordinate and promote the activities of the New Brunswick government within the provincial, Canadian, and international Francophonie; to develop the strategy, coordinate the activities and conduct the negotiations for the Official Languages agreements with the Government of Canada; and to ensure the implementation of the Agreement on the Promotion of Official Languages.

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## **Individual, Regional, Provincial Approach**

(The afternoon session provided for group discussion centered on the responsibilities of the individual, the region, and the province in implementing the recommendations of Delivering on the Blueprint).

### **Individual**

- Partnerships = better results instead of going at it individually.
- Working in partnership is something that is really important. A walking club in Edmundston could be good for members, keeps them in good health.
- Link with others, like we did today. See how it affects us as an organization. Develop our own action plan.
- Computer training – every young person works with computers. With seniors, some of that training is not there. If you have been out of school for awhile you are not familiar with computers.
- Keep ourselves informed, take part in discussions. Inform our colleagues and members, encourage them to get involved. Read the Action Plan and find your role.
- Training (harassment training, legal training). Share your knowledge, work together, and create partnerships. Recognize our volunteers for their efforts.
- We need training, and we need to provide training. Share experience with others in and outside your organizations. Share with your members.



- Training at all levels. Education changes, so if you want to recruit, you have to change the way you educate people to get them involved in our organizations.
- Illiteracy is an issue in recruiting volunteers. Even without those skills you can still be a great volunteer. Radio, TV and in person recruitment. Personal recruitment is an excellent tool.

### **Regional**

- Promoting your organizations – sometimes we are not familiar with all the organizations out there.
- Get to know other organizations. Share resources and we can work faster. Meet more often. Regional representation. Community and regional work would help us to have a regional representative.
- Regional meeting of all non-profits has not happened before. Organize another similar meeting. Develop common objectives for the region. Look at amalgamation or clustering by interest. Identify key people and common resources. Exchange information and experience.
- Partnership - Share and perhaps you will have a new organization that will come out of it. The demand for volunteers is going to keep increasing.
- Association/coalition – common voice, inform ourselves/groups to share knowledge. Save time and effort. Volunteer organization. Regional volunteer pool. Creates a stronger voice, to make sure there is a follow up. Meet every three months. An annual forum. Action needs to take place, sharing information after today. Cannot rely on one agency to follow it up. Quarterly meeting of the people here today or their representatives. Then hold an annual meeting to update on what's accomplished. Share all the information at the provincial level. Meet regularly, talk about accomplishments and next steps. Go forward with actions, meet again and share information on what's been done. Virtually as well, if it is not feasible provincially.
- Quarterly regional meetings. At various locations throughout the region.
- Networking/share each organization has something good to share with others, helps other organizations as well.
- Local or county wide volunteer centre.
- Libraries are there to help you with research. They have information available on funding requests.
- Involve the private sector in discussions. They may have input and ideas to add to the discussion.
- Warm hearts warm homes – government is providing funding, managed by the non-profit, regionally they recognize the needs in the community.
- Access to training
- Volunteer recognition events
- Need to develop our own regional plan

### **Provincial**

- Apply/implement 1/2 of the recommendations would be good. Ensure renewal.
- Training - available space provided to volunteers.

- NBCC, University and High School could provide training at night for volunteers.
  - Training on how to run organizations, how to apply for funding. Provide training online, and offer regionally in person.
  - Course on volunteerism as part of school curriculum. Volunteer work can become part of their resume.
  - What about the accountability and rights of people – confidentiality – issues to take into account. Some training given about the privacy. Training needs to be given, accounting to the law.
  - Show us actions that demonstrate that you are serious. Financial support would provide more time to get organized at the regional level.
  - Driver's Licenses in the United States require mandatory grade 12 education. Without high school graduation the individual needs to wait until they turn 21. Graduation rates increase.
  - Coop program of 30 hours of volunteer work – make sure we have renewal. Secretariat could go to Department of Education and promote curriculum change.
  - Tax to businesses that goes directly to non-profit organizations instead of directly to government. Certain amount of tax for non-profits.
  - Commitment at the provincial level – if commitment is there, things move faster.
  - Make a commitment to set up a mechanism, something tangible, that at the end of each year, any surplus will be applied to a wish list (not what you want, but what you need). Economic mechanism of food banks for example is not reported by the government like tourism is.
  - Recognize the seven different areas, have seven regions. Provide opportunity for the regions to meet provincially. Working individually is not good. Provide opportunity to commit provincially so we can all go to the government together.
  - Should be more money committed by 2010.
  - Secretariat needs to show us what actions have been taken.
  - Identification of people we work with in common.
  - Need to motivate provincial organizations.
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## Priorities

- A volunteer resource center in each region where all non-profit organizations could advertise what their organization has to offer
- Include all volunteer agencies contact information to the [www.gnb.ca/volunteer](http://www.gnb.ca/volunteer) website for people who may be looking to volunteer
- Recruitment of volunteers, with emphasis on youth
- Allow provincial employees to volunteer allotted amounts of hours per month or per year towards a non-profit organization
- Tax credits for volunteers
- Cost of volunteering is impacting the number of volunteers
- Protection for volunteers when doing volunteer work like "First Aid"
- Volunteer protection
- School credits for high school and post-secondary students volunteers

- Accessibility of advertising in the different media related areas (Radio, TV, Internet, Newspapers)
- Wheelchair Accessibility
- Improve access to school buses
- Access to school buses for preschool children
- Red tape reduction – simplification of applications for funding
- Group insurance rates
- Investment in the wellbeing of individuals = reducing the cost of health care
- SEED Program improvements (increase in the number of allocated weeks)
- Shoulder Season program for seniors is an excellent idea. They provide a lot of valuable experience
- Regional partnerships
- Partnership with municipalities - reduction of taxes
- Competition for financing is a problem
- Provincial discussion forums online
- Resources and knowledge of new technologies required in sector
- In today's economic crisis we need to demonstrate political will
- Poverty
- Economic difficulties and the impact on the sector

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## List of Attendees

Association Canadien Santé Mentale/Équité salariale

Au coin des amis

Banque alimentaire foyer Notre Dame

Banque alimentaire Grand-Sault

Banque alimentaire Grand-Sault

Bibliothèque publique de Grand-Sault (SBPNB)

Bibliothèque Publique de Kedgwick

Canadian Red Cross

Canadian Red Cross

Centraide le Havre

Centre Horizon

Chevaliers de colomb Conseil 3036

Club Boréal

Comité de Justice Sociale d'Edmundston

Coop Le Tourbillon Ltée

Croix rouge

Department of Energy

Department of Environment

Department of Natural Resources

Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training and

Labour

Dénise Mazerolle

Suzanne Bouchard

Simone Tardiff

Simone Beauprès Tardif

Glenn Rioux

Émilie Lefrançois

Louise Lang-Levesque

Quentin McGrath

Joanne Blanchette

Jacques Therrien

Suzanne Martin

Marius Caron

Cécile Nadeau

Céline Letourneau

Jean-Yves Gauvreau

Johanne Blanchette

Mary Ann Mann

Luc Sirois

Marc Boucher

Chantal Lessard



Department of Public Safety / Community & Correctional  
 Services and Compliance Services  
 Department of Public Safety / Madawaska Regional  
 Correctional Center  
 Department of Social Development  
 Department of Social Development  
 Développement de l'enfant du Madawaska  
 Équité salariale  
 Fédération des citoyennes aînés de NB  
 Fondation Dr Romaric Boulay  
 Fondation Hôtel-Dieu  
 Frère Mariste  
 Grand Falls Curling Club  
 Hotel-Dieu Saint-Basile  
 Jeu l'acadie  
 La Commission de Bibliothèque Publique  
 La Foire Brayonne Inc.  
 L'Atelier des copains Co-op Ltd./Bibliothèque  
 Monseigneur/le village des sources Res-Ma-Vic  
 L'Atelier R.A.D.O. Inc  
 Le Club Richelieu Edmundston  
 Le Madawaska  
 le village des sources Res-Ma-Vic  
 L'Écllosion inc.  
 L'Écllosion inc. -  
 Légion Royale canadienne - Filiale 65  
 Les Festivités Demi-Marathon  
 Les Jeunesses Musicales du Canada, région d'Edmundston  
 Marcheurs de la république  
 Marcheurs de la république  
 Mouvement Scout et Guide de St-Jacques  
 Mouvement Scout et Guide de St-Jacques  
 Non-profit housing  
 PRO Jeunesse  
 radio amateur  
 Région de bibliothèque Haut St-Jean  
 Regroupement des Organismes Communautaires  
 Regroupement des Organismes Communautaires  
 Regroupement des Organismes Communautaires  
 Resnet Inc.  
 Salon du livre d'Edmundston  
 Search And Rescue  
 Service des bibliothèques publiques - Région Haut-Saint-  
 Jean  
 Service des bibliothèques publiques - Région Haut-Saint-  
 Jean

Eileen Ruest-Emont

Eric Bujold  
 Serge Morin  
 Morel Caissie  
 Constance Martin  
 Louise Guerette  
 Mona LeBel  
 Donald Thériault  
 Diane LeGresley  
 Frère Léon Hébert  
 Roland Fraser  
 Pauline Pérusse  
 Géatanne Duval  
 Nathalie Nadeau-Plourde  
 Eric Thériault

Pierrette Bouchard  
 Stéphane Bourgoin  
 Bernadette Pelletier  
 Christine Thériault  
 Claudette Therrien  
 Alfreda Bérubé  
 Julie Francoeur  
 Stanislas Dionne  
 Diane Cyr  
 Danièle Dubé  
 Louise Landry  
 Gerald Landry  
 Gisèle Babineau  
 Maurice Babineau  
 J. Norman Pelletier  
 Paula Murchison  
 Rino Morneau  
 Patrick Provencher  
 Denise Beaulieu  
 Claire Bossé  
 Evelyne Cayouette  
 Hector Adegbi  
 Jeff Ouellette  
 Oullette O'neil

Johanne Jacob

Sarah Kilfoil

Service diocésain de la jeunesse - Diocèse d'Edmundston  
Société historique du Madawaska  
Université du Troisième Âge du Nord-ouest (UTANO)  
Vélo Edmundston  
Vélo Edmundston  
Ville de Saint-Quentin  
VON Bébé et moi

Sylvio Belliveau  
Hélène Martin  
Luc St-Jarre  
Marc-André Martin  
Luc Michaud  
Marie-Josée Thériault  
Carole Desjardins  
David Couturier